



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Lyons Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall

Minutes

Brian Turnbaugh, Eliza Burden, Mara Vatz, Mary Ellen Aronow, Phil Tedesco, Brian Turnbaugh, Ed Trembly, Susan Stamps, Tim Lecuivre, *visitor: David Stern*

1. *Approve March Meeting Minutes - skipped for next month*
2. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*
 - Tree hearing(s) - nothing scheduled. London Plane tree on Eastern Ave. Resident is concerned with sewer line interference, and may start a hearing process they have reached out to ATC and to Tim, Tim has sent them hearing information
 - Tree Bylaw activity - Harvard St property has been fined a total of approximately \$10,000 (\$3500 to the *trees please fund* (to pay for trees cut) and \$6,300 fines). Developer claims he did not know about the Bylaw before he removed the trees. **What can the ATC do to get the word out more? Ed write article?**
 - Spring planting -
 - A. 150 trees (100 requests and 50 for Tree Zone 2) to be delivered on April 22nd or 23rd delivered. Town will plant through April / May (hoping for a 3 week turn-around). Order trees from Schichtel's Nursery in VT
 - B. Web Q/A - history: backlog of tree management and planting requests since 2012 was Tim's first task when he joined the town (at that time, it took 4 – 6 months to respond to new requests) ; Now, it only takes 2 weeks from removal to stump-grinding, 1 week response time of new planting, and sometimes 1 day of turn-around time for 'come see my tree' requests. **Success story update. "We can almost be working directly from the Tree Mgmt. Plan now".**
 - Arbor Day (Tim) plans by DPW - Hardy school planting of 4 trees with the second grade class, last year it was Thompson 4th graders. Will continue around to the schools each year on Arbor Day.
 - Watering plans (any opportunities for girl scouts?) - see below under **Publicity/Community Outreach**

- **Bylaw: Question from Tim** – when do people pay? Payment is due upon the commencement of work. **How is that enforced? Can we do more signage in the building department or have more information readily available to the builder?**
- **Sam Wilson park.** Need to choose a species. Considering a hybrid silver/red maple? Tim wants a 8' caliper 35 foot tall tree to plant. Tim will see what is in stock in May/June

3. *Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2019 (Mary Ellen)*

- Nursery Choice - same as last 3 years: NE Nurseries
- Review of program timeline (publicity, orders, delivery date, etc) - selling well! 3 red buds left, 3 oaks as of 4.11.2019 (assuming business takes 5)
- Mirak participation? Awaiting signed form and check

4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Good Neighbor Agreement; Residential Zoning Study Group (RSG) update - did not discuss
- Heritage Tree program; visit to Sassafras Tree on Forest St (Eliza) - did not discuss
- Service project with New Covenant School (Keith) - Mara visited school, students provided material for Robbins display.
- Fox Library: "What's Up in Arlington?" presentation (Brian/MEA) - small audience, yet enthusiastic. Discussed ATC annual report and town's tree mgmt plan.
- Robbins Library – table display in April (Mara) - display up, ATC helping to keep it looking nice . Covenant school kids helping with EAB and book reviews.
- Patriots Day Parade; Chairful Where you Sit; Feast of the East - did not discuss
- Earth Quest – weeklong event Apr 22-28 - did not discuss
- Google groups activity - did not discuss

5. *ARB/Zoning Bylaws Update:*

- *Statements from Keith's sheet. **We want to know: if these bylaws passed would you not be able to put in a street tree or a private property tree in front of the new building? And, which R or other zoned places along the proposed routes would actually be impacted. Can we see a map with specifics? Can we see pictures of 'before' and 'after'?** The proposed areas are expansive, include Mass Ave from Alewife parkway to the Lexington Line, along with other main streets (Broadway).*
- *A motion is on the table to accept the general position by the ATC:*
 - *The Arl master plan not only promotes housing goals it also promotes the environment and the public tree canopy as a part of the community.*
 - *We recommend a no vote.*

- *Arlington's tree canopy is the well-being of the community, of equal value to the housing goals in town. does not consider the potential adverse impacts of the tree canopy and the environment.*

All in favor

6. New Business

- *Scannell Field, tennis courts, solicit 4th grade kids, Thompson kids do it*
- *Girl Scouts tree planting – Phil suggested we try to have the G.S. go through the process of alerting the Park/Rec about trees wanting to be planted, and seeing the process through until trees are planted – and G.S. water them.*
- *Tree damage and sewer work. Air blade used to dig up sewer pipes. Ed noted that sewer workers in Arlington must be bonded. ATC could obtain list and inform them of the tools available to protect trees during sewer work. **(Tim's standard around root zone: For every 1" of tree need 10" of root. Therefore, a 10" tree = 4 feet around tree).***

Adjourned at 9:40pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 8.